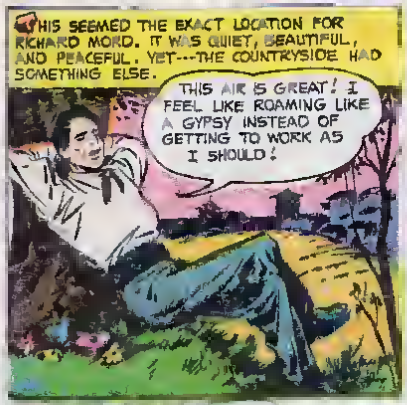
THIS MAGAZINE IS
HAUNTED
AUG. NO. 12
10¢
"THIS IS OR DEATH!" COME ON IN! I HAVE SOME REAL OUT-OF-THIS WORLD STORIES TO TELL YOU! DON'T MIND THE FELLOW LEANING HERE, HERE! I JUST TOLD HIM A FEW!

THIS MAGAZINE IS HAUNTED

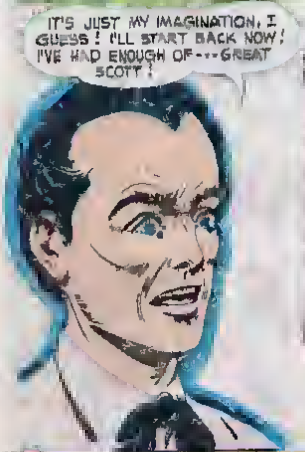
Executive Editor WILL LIEBERSON • Editor V. A. PROVISIERO • Art Editor AL JETTER

THIS IS YOUR HOST, DR. DEATH, WELCOMING YOU WITH A PERPLEXING QUESTION--- WHAT IS THE VEIL BETWEEN NORMALCY AND INSANITY ? IS IT LOVE, HATE, FEAR ? OR IS IT AMBITION AND GREED THAT DRIVES MEN TO THE EDGE OF THE INFINITE, SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS THAT TORMENT THEM ? TO RICHARD MORD, IT WAS CURIOSITY THAT SPURRED HIM TOWARDS THE BARRIER BEHIND WHICH HIS ANSWER LAY---CURIOSITY THAT NOW MADE HIM REACH OUT AND TUG AT THE LOCK---UNKNOWN SLAVE TO THE TERRIBLE POWER THAT LURKED IN HIS SOUL---DRIVING HIM---DRIVING HIM--- DRIVING HIM TOWARDS ---
The
DOOR
CREEAKKKK

THIS MAGAZINE IS HAUNTED, Aug., 1953, Vol. 2, No. 12, is published bi-monthly by Fawcett Publications, Inc., Fawcett Place, Greenwich, Conn. Entered as second class matter June 12, 1951, at the post office, Greenwich, Conn., under the act of March 3, 1879. Additional entry at Louisville, Ky. Copyright 1953 by Fawcett Publications, Inc. Editorial and advertising offices, 67 W. 44th St., N. Y. 19, N. Y. Send remittances and letters concerning subscriptions, change of address, etc., to Circulation Dept., Fawcett Place, Greenwich, Conn. Subscription rate 12 issues for $1.20 in U. S., possessions and Canada. Foreign, $1.70 in international money order, U. S. funds. Printed in U. S. A.


THIS SEEMED THE EXACT LOCATION FOR RICHARD MORD. IT WAS QUIET, BEAUTIFUL, AND PEACEFUL. YET---THE COUNTRYSIDE HAD SOMETHING ELSE.
THIS AIR IS GREAT! I FEEL LIKE ROAMING LIKE A GYPSY INSTEAD OF GETTING TO WORK AS I SHOULD!

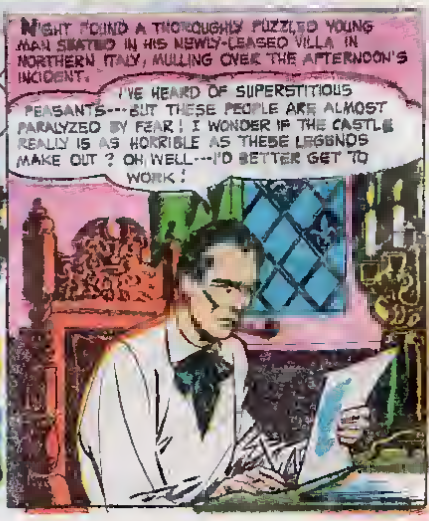
I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT---BUT THESE PEOPLE SEEM TO BE AFRAID OF SOMETHING!


IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION, I GUESS! I'LL START BACK NOW! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF---GREAT SCOTT!

THEN HE SAW IT--- THE CASTLE OF VALORD! THE LEGENDARY HOME OF VAMPIRES, AND GHOULS--- A BUILDING SHUNNED AND HATED BY ALL! ABOUT IT--- EVEN IN WARM SUNLIGHT---HUNG AN AURA OF--- DEATH!

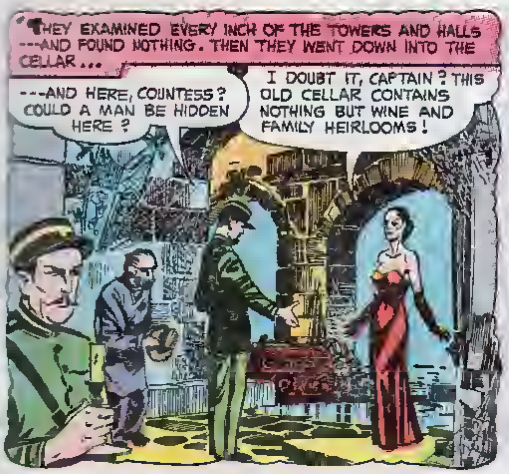
THE YOUNG AMERICAN APPROACHED THE VILLAGERS TO QUESTION THEM---BUT THE SILENT, TENSE GROUP BROKE AND RAN!
HEY---! WAIT A MOMENT! I JUST WANT TO ASK A FEW QUESTIONS! COME BACK!

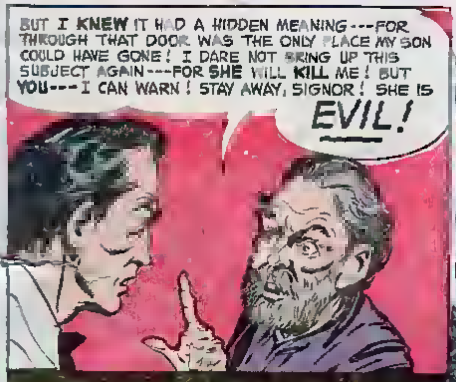
WELL, I'LL BE---! THEY'RE ACTUALLY TERROR-STRICKEN! THEY KNEW I WAS GOING TO ASK THEM ABOUT THE CASTLE UP THERE ---AND THEY SCATTERED! STRANGE---! VERY STRANGE...


NIGHT FOUND A THOROUGHLY PUZZLED YOUNG MAN SEATED IN HIS NEWLY-LEASED VILLA IN NORTHERN ITALY, MULLING OVER THE AFTERNOON'S INCIDENT.
I'VE HEARD OF SUPERSTITIOUS PEASANTS---BUT THESE PEOPLE ARE ALMOST PARALYZED BY FEAR! I WONDER IF THE CASTLE REALLY IS AS HORRIBLE AS THESE LEGENDS MAKE OUT? OH WELL---I'D BETTER GET TO WORK!

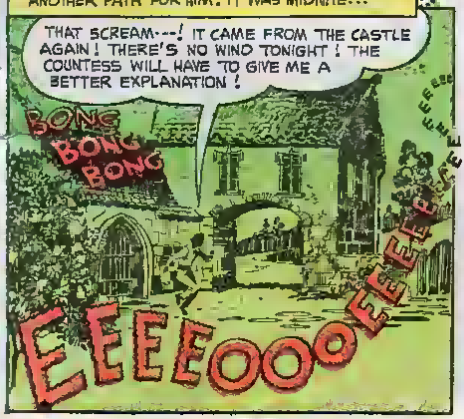
SUCCESSFUL YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT, RICHARD MORD, HAD CHOSEN THIS VILLA AS HIS HOME FOR TWO MONTHS TO WRITE HIS NEW PLAY. HE HAD RENTED IT FOR PEACE AND QUIET. INSTEAD HE GOT...
W-WHAT WAS THAT?
EEEOOOOEEEEEEEEE
IT---IT'S COMING FROM THAT CASTLE! AND I'M NOT IMAGINING THINGS! NO WIND COULD CAUSE SUCH A TERRIBLE MOANING SOUND AS THAT!
AND SO HE INVESTIGATED.
BRRR...WHAT A SETTING FOR A HORROR MOVIE! IT'S WELL THAT I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS AND VAMPIRES! OTHERWISE, I'D GET THE SHIVER OF MY LIFE!
FOOTSTEPS! SOMEONE'S IN HERE---AND THE SOUND'S GETTING NEARER!
CLICK
CLACK
CLICK CLACK
AND INTO VIEW FROM THE SHADOWS STEPPED A VISION OF BREATHTAKING LOVELINESS!
WELCOME TO MY HOME RICHARD MORD! I AM THE COUNTESS SIROON. IT WAS RUDE OF ME NOT TO CALL ON THE NEW OWNER OF THE VILLA PROVENO! BUT I AM EXPECTING A GUEST!
B-BUT NO ONE TOLD ME ANYONE LIVED HERE! THAT IS---I---UH...I HARDLY THOUGHT ANYONE WOULD!
SO YOU BELIEVE THESE SILLY SUPERSTITIONS, TOO? HA, HA! THEY ARE EASILY EXPLAINED! THE WIND, FOR INSTANCE, KNIFES THROUGH A SHATTERED HALLWAY AND THE IGNORANT VILLAGERS SAY IT IS A VOICE FROM THE BEYOND! HOW STUPID!
AND TO THINK I NEARLY BELIEVED IT, MYSELF!
THEY TALKED AND LAUGHED AND BECAME FRIENDS. RICHARD MORD WAS FASCINATED BY HIS HOSTESS' BEAUTY---SO MUCH SO THAT HE PROMISED TO COME AGAIN. BUT AS HE RETURNED TO HIS VILLA...
PARDON, SIGNOR! BUT---YOU ARE MAKING A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!
WHO ARE YOU?

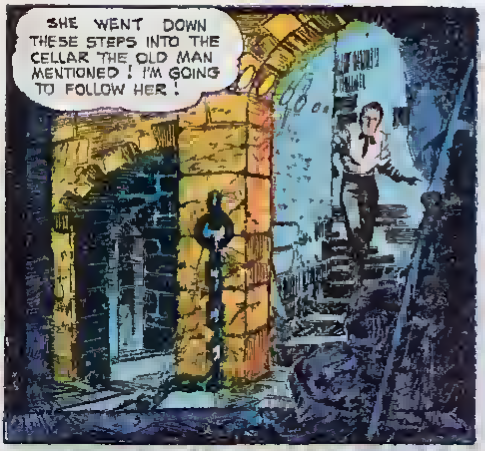
MY IDENTITY DOESN'T MATTER, SIGNOR MORD! YOU ARE A NEW-COMER---AND NEWS TRAVELS FAST! I IMPLORE YOU TO LEAVE THIS VALLEY AT ONCE---BEFORE YOU ARE CAUGHT IN THE WEB OF THAT EVIL CREATURE WITHIN!
"LET ME TELL YOU WHY I AM CONCERNED! I HAD A SON---A STRONG AND HANDSOME SON WHO HELPED ME IN MY DAILY PLOUGHING. HE, TOO, DIDN'T BELIEVE THE WHISPERED RUMORS ABOUT THE CASTLE, AND ONE DAY...
LOOK, FATHER! LOOK!!
COVER YOUR EYES, RAFAEL! THOSE DEMONS COME FROM HELL!
DID YOU SEE HER, FATHER? SHE---SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL, THE WINGED HORSE SHE RODE...IT WAS MAGNIFICENT!
H-HORSE? S-SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL? NO, NO! YOU ARE SEEING THINGS!! MY EYES TOLD ME SOME-THING ELSE!!
"THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I SAW MY SON! HE NEVER RETURNED! I GOT THE POLICE---AND TOGETHER, WE WENT TO CALL ON THE COUNTESS.
---BUT, GENTLEMEN---THESE TALES ARE IMPOSSIBLE! NO ONE HAS ENTERED MY HOME!
NEVERTHELESS, MY DEAR COUNTESS, WE WISH TO SEARCH THE INTERIOR---IF WE HAVE YOUR PERMISSION!
BUT OF COURSE! SEARCH EVERYWHERE! AND, WHEN YOU FINISH, FEEL FREE TO CALL ON ME AGAIN! THIS OLD MAN WOULD DO BETTER TO LOOK INTO THE NEAREST TAVERN FOR HIS SON! HA, HA!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? NO! YOU MUSTN'T! STOP!
SHE CALLS TO ME, FATHER, DON'T YOU HEAR? I MUST GO TO HER...





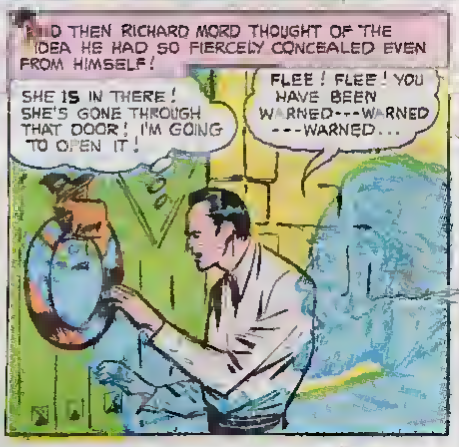
RICHARD MORD RECEIVED NO ANSWER AND HE WAS DEEP IN THOUGHT AS HE PREPARED FOR SLEEP THAT NIGHT. BUT FATE HAD DEVISED ANOTHER PATH FOR HIM. IT WAS MIDNITE...


THAT SCREAM---! IT CAME FROM THE CASTLE AGAIN! THERE'S NO WIND TONIGHT! THE COUNTESS WILL HAVE TO GIVE ME A BETTER EXPLANATION!
BONG BONG BONG
EEEE


SHE WENT DOWN THESE STEPS INTO THE CELLAR THE OLD MAN MENTIONED! I'M GOING TO FOLLOW HER!

I---I'VE LOST SIGHT OF HER! NO, WAIT---! THAT SOUND---LIKE CREAKING HINGES...SHE'S OPENING THE DOOR THE OLD MAN SAID WAS DOWN HERE!
CREEEAKKK

GOOD HEAVENS! SHE'S DISAPPEARED! AND---AND YET THAT DOOR HASN'T BEEN TOUCHED! THERE'S DUST AN INCH THICK ON IT---AND COBWEBS! BUT IT'S THE ONLY PLACE SHE COULD HAVE GONE!


AND THEN RICHARD MORD THOUGHT OF THE IDEA HE HAD SO FIERCELY CONCEALED EVEN FROM HIMSELF!
SHE IS IN THERE! SHE'S GONE THROUGH THAT DOOR! I'M GOING TO OPEN IT!
FLEE! FLEE! YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED---WARNED---WARNED...

I---I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME! IT'S ONLY A DOOR...YET---I'M AFRAID TO OPEN IT!

A STRONG GRIP TIGHTENED ON THE COLD IRON HANDLE OF THE DOOR. MUSCLES LOCKED AND BLOOD PUMPED FASTER AS THE SILENCE OF CENTURIES WAS DEFILED BY A RASPING NOISE...
UGHH...I'M USING ALL THE STRENGTH I HAVE... BUT I CAN HARDLY BUDGE IT!
CRREEAK
CRREEAK

THE
DOOR
WAS
OPENING---!!
GRRREEEEAK
AGHHHH !!
WHAT HAVE I DONE ?
ALMOST GOT ME ! THERE'S NO GOING BACK NOW ! I COULD NEVER SHUT THE DOOR IN TIME ! MY ONLY CHOICE IS TO GO IN !
LORD FLAILED THE AIR WITH HIS HANDS IN AN EFFORT TO GET CLEAR. SUDDENLY, HE FOUND HIMSELF WHIRLED UP, AND . . .
I---I'M GLIDING OVER IT'S HEAD ! THIS IS FANTASTIC---ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC ! YET---I SEEM TO BE IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF MY SURROUNDINGS !
I'M DRAWING NEAR TO A HILL ! I CAN MAKE IT OUT CLEARLY ! NOW I KNOW WHERE I AM ! I'M IN---

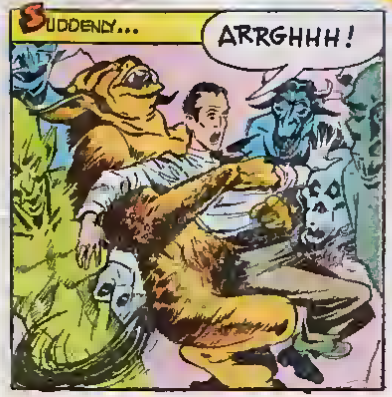
---THE BEYOND!!
EEEOOOEEE! PLEASE! PLEASE! MERCY!
DON'T WHIP ME ANY MORE!!
HA,HA... AGAIN! AGAIN, MY DEMONS! LASH THEM SO THAT I MAY WITNESS THE BRIGHT RIVULETS OF THEIR BLOOD!

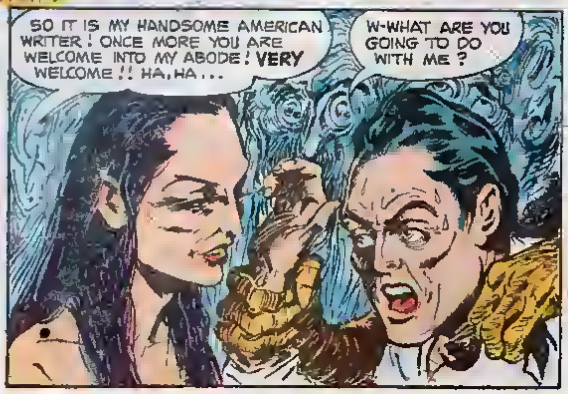
AIIIEEEE! SPARE ME, SIROON! I---I HAVE NO MORE STRENGTH! LET ME DIE! KILL ME, BUT SPARE ME THIS!!
SILENCE, MORTAL! IT IS I WHO COMMAND!

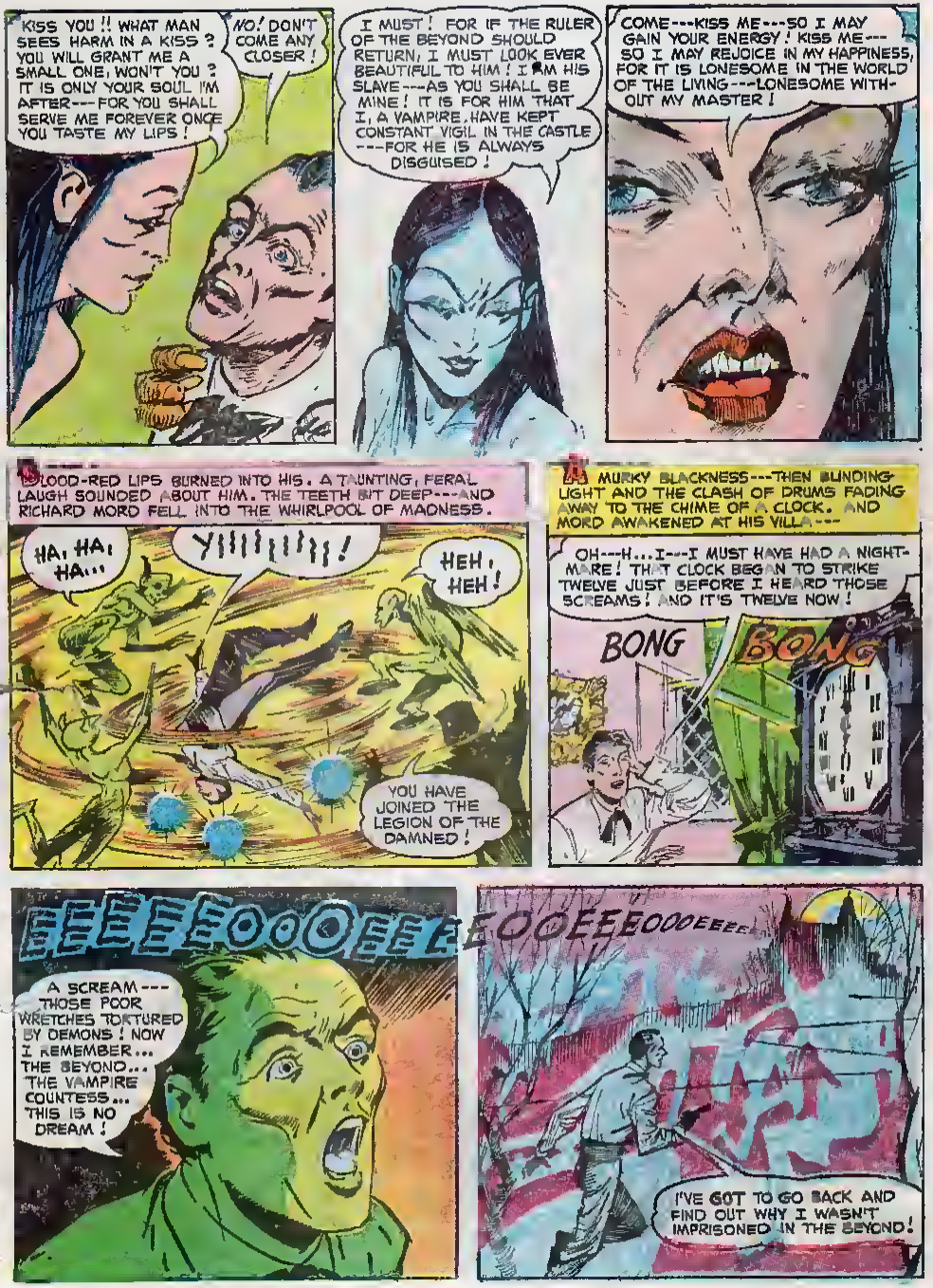
AND NOW---IT IS TIME FOR OUR KISS! YOU FOLLOWED ME HERE---AND YOU WILL ONCE MORE GIVE ME YOUR LIPS!
N-NO!! EEEEEOOE!

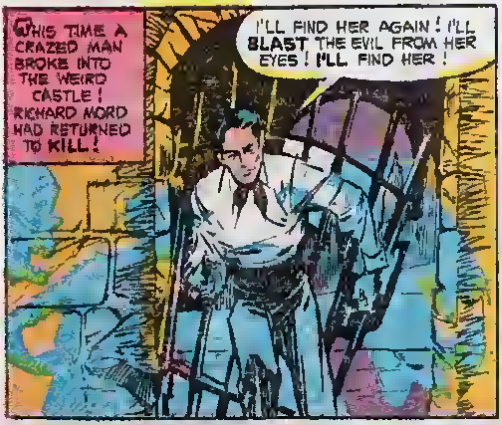
AIIIEEEE!!
DIE! DIE---SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE AGAIN! GIVE ME THE BLOOD OF YOUR WITHERED BODY SO THAT I MAY HOLD YOUR LIFE-ENERGY WITHIN ME!

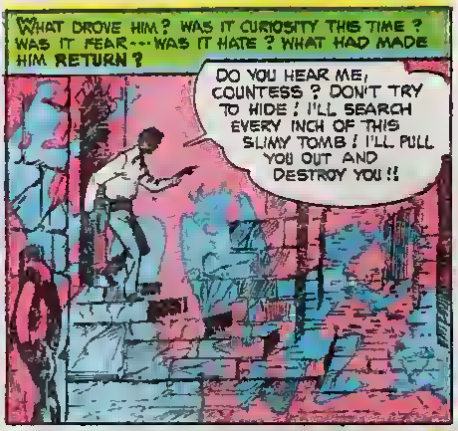
DEMONS---GHOULS---GARGOYLES...REJOICE WITH ME---FOR I, SIROON, HAVE BECOME BEAUTIFUL AGAIN WITH THIS BLOOD! ONCE MORE THE CYCLE IS COMPLETE! ONCE MORE, WE GIVE OFFERINGS TO OUR LORD AND MASTER!
I MUST ESCAPE THIS SIGHT! I MUST...!

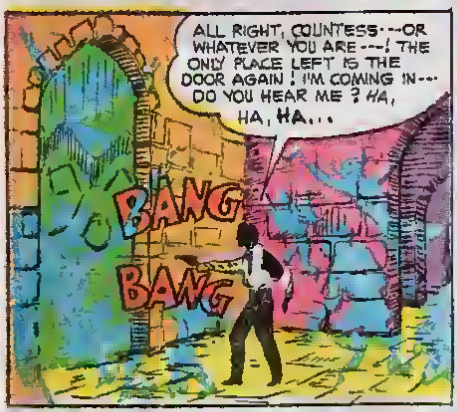

SUDDENLY...
ARRGHHH!

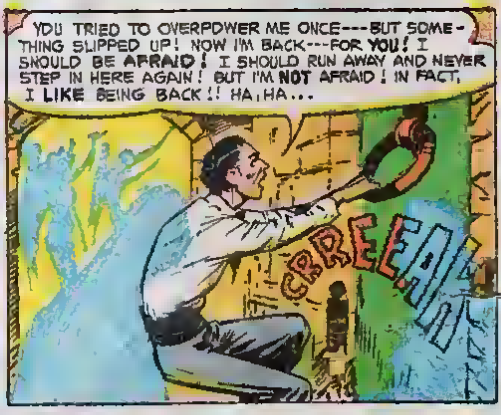

SO IT IS MY HANDSOME AMERICAN WRITER! ONCE MORE YOU ARE WELCOME INTO MY ABODE! VERY WELCOME!! HA,HA...
W-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?


KISS YOU !! WHAT MAN SEES HARM IN A KISS ? YOU WILL GRANT ME A SMALL ONE, WON'T YOU ? IT IS ONLY YOUR SOUL I'M AFTER--- FOR YOU SHALL SERVE ME FOREVER ONCE YOU TASTE MY LIPS !
NO ! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER !
I MUST ! FOR IF THE RULER OF THE BEYOND SHOULD RETURN, I MUST LOOK EVER BEAUTIFUL TO HIM ! I AM HIS SLAVE---AS YOU SHALL BE MINE ! IT IS FOR HIM THAT I, A VAMPIRE, HAVE KEPT CONSTANT VIGIL IN THE CASTLE ---FOR HE IS ALWAYS DISGUISED !
COME---KISS ME---SO I MAY GAIN YOUR ENERGY ! KISS ME--- SO I MAY REJOICE IN MY HAPPINESS, FOR IT IS LONESOME IN THE WORLD OF THE LIVING---LONESOME WITH-OUT MY MASTER !
BLOOD-RED LIPS BURNED INTO HIS. A TAUNTING, FERAL LAUGH SOUNDED ABOUT HIM. THE TEETH BIT DEEP---AND RICHARD MORD FELL INTO THE WHIRLPOOL OF MADNESS.
HA, HA, HA...
YIIIIIIIII !
HEH, HEH !
YOU HAVE JOINED THE LEGION OF THE DAMNED !
MURKY BLACKNESS---THEN BUNDING LIGHT AND THE CLASH OF DRUMS FADING AWAY TO THE CHIME OF A CLOCK. AND MORD AWAKENED AT HIS VILLA---
OH---H...I---I MUST HAVE HAD A NIGHT-MARE ! THAT CLOCK BEGAN TO STRIKE TWELVE JUST BEFORE I HEARD THOSE SCREAMS ! AND IT'S TWELVE NOW !
BONG
BONG
EEEEOOOEEEE
A SCREAM--- THOSE POOR WRETCHES TORTURED BY DEMONS ! NOW I REMEMBER... THE BEYOND... THE VAMPIRE COUNTESS... THIS IS NO DREAM !
EOOEEEOOOEEEE
I'VE GOT TO GO BACK AND FIND OUT WHY I WASN'T IMPRISONED IN THE BEYOND !


THIS TIME A CRAZED MAN BROKE INTO THE WEIRD CASTLE! RICHARD MORD HAD RETURNED TO KILL!
I'LL FIND HER AGAIN! I'LL BLAST THE EVIL FROM HER EYES! I'LL FIND HER!

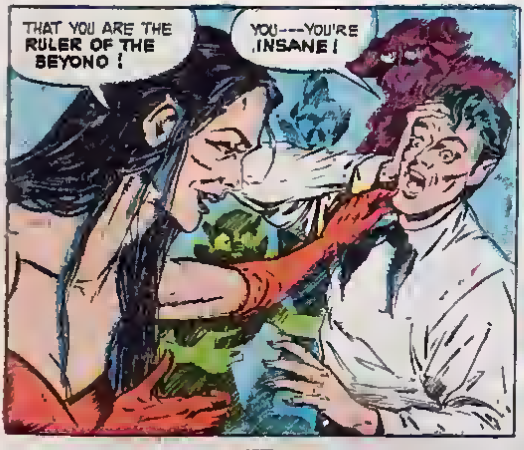

WHAT DROVE HIM? WAS IT CURIOSITY THIS TIME? WAS IT FEAR---WAS IT HATE? WHAT HAD MADE HIM RETURN?
DO YOU HEAR ME, COUNTESS? DON'T TRY TO HIDE! I'LL SEARCH EVERY INCH OF THIS SLIMY TOMB! I'LL PULL YOU OUT AND DESTROY YOU!!

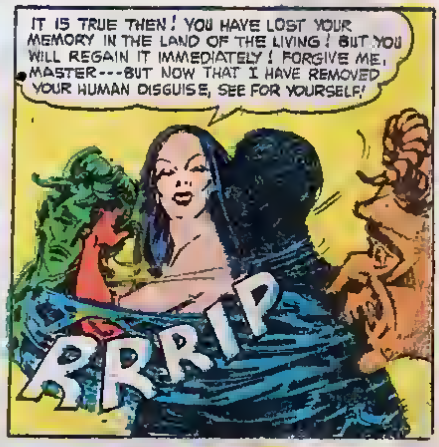

ALL RIGHT, COUNTESS---OR WHATEVER YOU ARE---! THE ONLY PLACE LEFT IS THE DOOR AGAIN! I'M COMING IN--- DO YOU HEAR ME? HA, HA, HA...
BANG
BANG


YOU TRIED TO OVERPOWER ME ONCE---BUT SOMETHING SLIPPED UP! NOW I'M BACK---FOR YOU! I SHOULD BE AFRAID! I SHOULD RUN AWAY AND NEVER STEP IN HERE AGAIN! BUT I'M NOT AFRAID! IN FACT, I LIKE BEING BACK!! HA, HA...
CREEAK

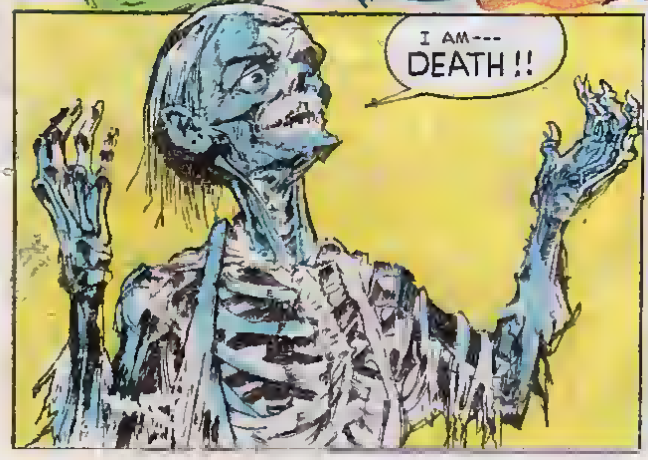
WIDER---EVER WIDER, THE DOOR OPENED---TO REVEAL...
HAIL, RICHARD MORD! HAIL, MY MASTER!! WE OF YOUR KINGDOM WELCOME YOU!!
WHAT JOKE IS THIS?

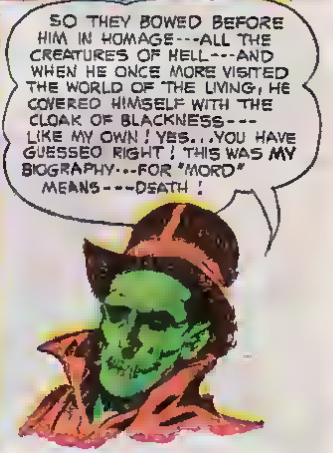
JOKE? SURELY YOU ARE PLAYING WITH US, MASTER! FORGIVE ME FOR NOT REALIZING WHO YOU WERE! YOUR WARM BLOOD MADE ME GREEDY! BUT I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
KNOWN WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

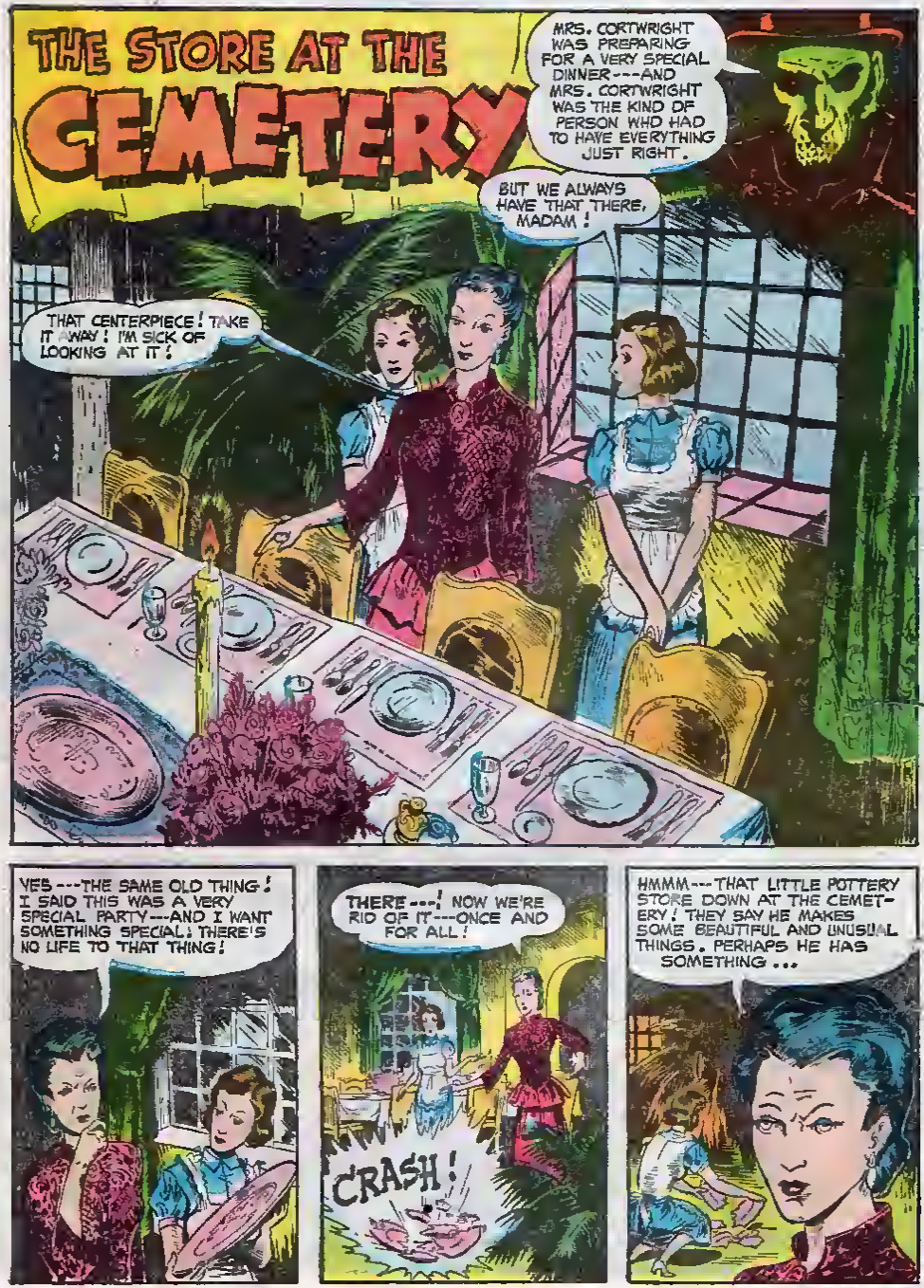

THAT YOU ARE THE RULER OF THE BEYONO !
YOU---YOU'RE INSANE !

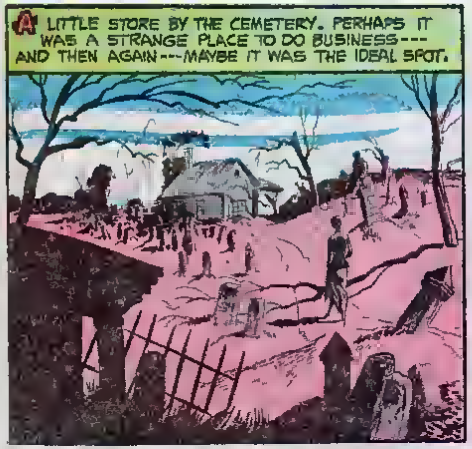

IT IS TRUE THEN ! YOU HAVE LOST YOUR MEMORY IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING ! BUT YOU WILL REGAIN IT IMMEDIATELY ! FORGIVE ME, MASTER---BUT NOW THAT I HAVE REMOVED YOUR HUMAN DISGUISE, SEE FOR YOURSELF!
RRRIP

IT IS HE!! WELCOME, WELCOME, HIGHNESS !
NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND, MASTER ? NOW DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU COULD OPEN THE DOOR, ELUDE THE DOOR'S WATCHDOG, CONQUER ALL OBSTACLES IN THE BEYONO ? NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I COULD NOT ENSLAVE YOU BY MY KISS ?
YES, OF COURSE !

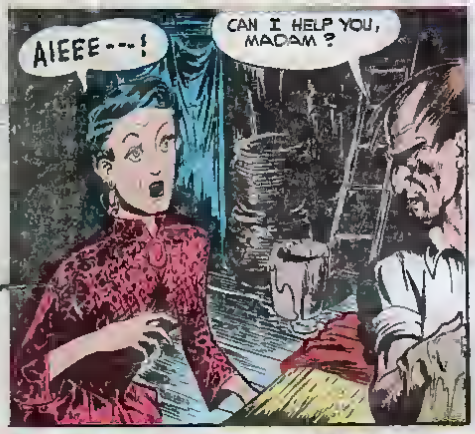

I AM--- DEATH !!

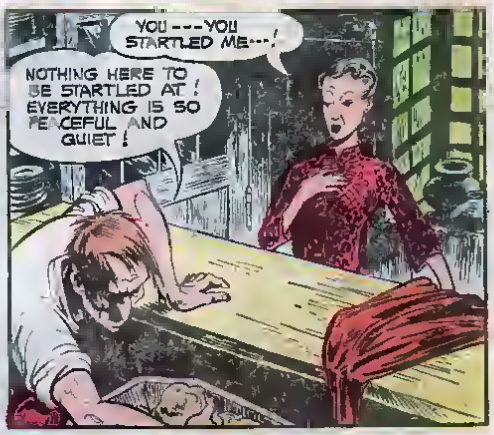

SO THEY BOWED BEFORE HIM IN HOMAGE---ALL THE CREATURES OF HELL---AND WHEN HE ONCE MORE VISITED THE WORLD OF THE LIVING, HE COVERED HIMSELF WITH THE CLOAK OF BLACKNESS--- LIKE MY OWN ! YES...YOU HAVE GUESSED RIGHT ! THIS WAS MY BIOGRAPHY---FOR "MORD" MEANS---DEATH !

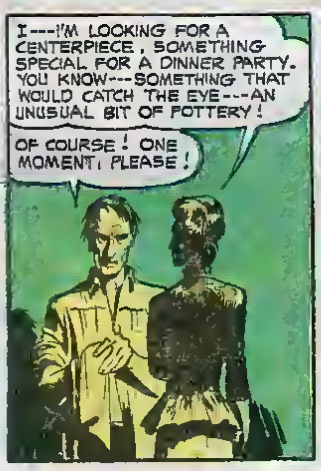

THE STORE AT THE CEMETERY
MRS. CORTWRIGHT WAS PREPARING FOR A VERY SPECIAL DINNER---AND MRS. CORTWRIGHT WAS THE KIND OF PERSON WHO HAD TO HAVE EVERYTHING JUST RIGHT.
BUT WE ALWAYS HAVE THAT THERE, MADAM!
THAT CENTERPIECE! TAKE IT AWAY! I'M SICK OF LOOKING AT IT!
YES---THE SAME OLD THING! I SAID THIS WAS A VERY SPECIAL PARTY---AND I WANT SOMETHING SPECIAL! THERE'S NO LIFE TO THAT THING!
THERE---! NOW WE'RE RID OF IT---ONCE AND FOR ALL!
CRASH!
HMMM---THAT LITTLE POTTERY STORE DOWN AT THE CEMETERY! THEY SAY HE MAKES SOME BEAUTIFUL AND UNUSUAL THINGS. PERHAPS HE HAS SOMETHING...


A LITTLE STORE BY THE CEMETERY. PERHAPS IT WAS A STRANGE PLACE TO DO BUSINESS--- AND THEN AGAIN---MAYBE IT WAS THE IDEAL SPOT.

WHAT A HORRIBLE LITTLE PLACE---! HALLLOOOO! ANYBODY HERE ?


AIEEE---!
CAN I HELP YOU, MADAM ?


YOU---YOU STARTLED ME---!
NOTHING HERE TO BE STARTLED AT ! EVERYTHING IS SO PEACEFUL AND QUIET !


I---I'M LOOKING FOR A CENTERPIECE, SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR A DINNER PARTY. YOU KNOW---SOMETHING THAT WOULD CATCH THE EYE---AN UNUSUAL BIT OF POTTERY !
OF COURSE ! ONE MOMENT, PLEASE !

THE MAN SHUFFLED TO THE REAR OF THE STORE AND THEN HESITATED AS HE NOTICED SOME COFFINS WITH THEIR LIDS OPEN.
HMMMM--- GUESS IT'S TIME TO CLOSE THEM NOW !

HERE'S SOMETHING UNUSUAL I THINK YOU'LL LIKE! NOTICE THE TEXTURE AND DESIGN!
NO---THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT!

IT SEEMS TO LACK SOMETHING! IT HAS NO LIFE TO IT---!

HOW ABOUT THIS ONE? IT'S ONE OF MY PRIZES!
HMMMM---!

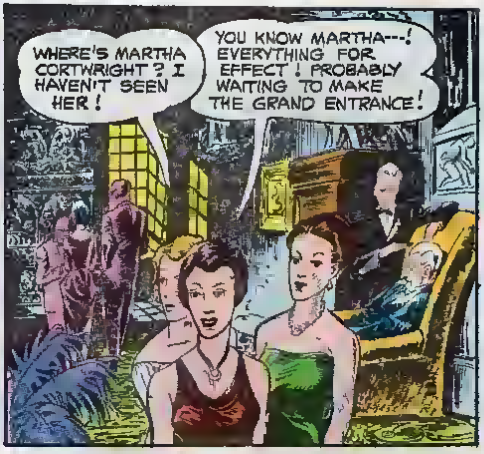
I'M AFRAID NOT! IT MIGHT DO FOR SOMEONE ELSE--- BUT THIS HAS TO BE SOMETHING SPECIAL! SOMETHING THAT PRACTICALLY LIVES!

HEH, HEH! I NEVER HAD ANYBODY SO HARD TO PLEASE!
MAYBE SO! BUT I'M WILLING TO PAY FOR WHAT I WANT!

I WANT SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE PEOPLE SIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE! I WANT SOMETHING THAT LOOKS ALIVE! THOSE THINGS YOU SHOWED ME---THERE'S JUST NO LIFE TO THEM!
PERHAPS I CAN GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT AFTER ALL!

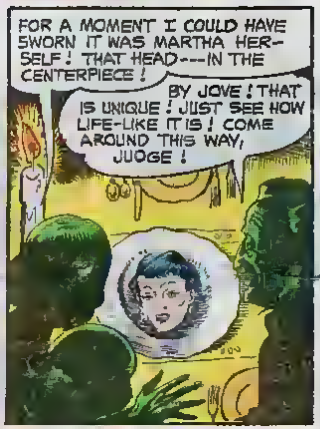
THE MAN SUDDENLY PLUNGED HIS HANDS INTO A MASS OF CLAY---
WH---WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?
PREPARING MY CLAY FOR YOUR CENTER-PIECE ! IT WON'T TAKE LONG !
NOW PLEASE HOLD STILL FOR A MINUTE ! I WANT TO CAPTURE THAT EXPRESSION YOU HAVE ! IT HAS SUCH FEELING TO IT---!
GET AWAY FROM ME ! WH---WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO ?
DON'T BE FRIGHTENED !
ALL I WANT IS A FACIAL MASK OF YOUR FEATURES ! I WANT TO RETAIN THAT WONDERFUL EXPRESSION ! IT WON'T TAKE LONG !
AFTER ALL---THE OTHERS WERE DEAD ! THEY COULDN'T APPEAR LIFE-LIKE ... BUT YOU---!
AIEEEEEE !
I TOLD YOU IT WOULDN'T TAKE VERY LONG ! REST WELL, MY DEAR !

THAT EVENING, MRS. CORTWRIGHT'S GUESTS ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE FOR THE DINNER PARTY SHE HAD LONG PLANNED.
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, JUDGE!
DARLING--- HOW WELL YOU LOOK!

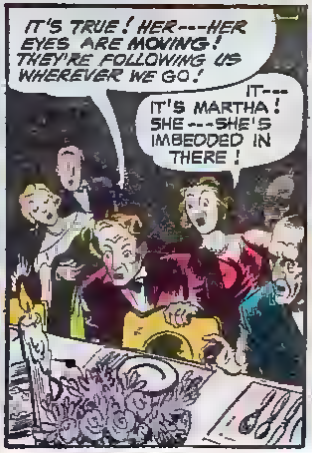

WHERE'S MARTHA CORTWRIGHT? I HAVEN'T SEEN HER!
YOU KNOW MARTHA---! EVERYTHING FOR EFFECT! PROBABLY WAITING TO MAKE THE GRAND ENTRANCE!

DINNER IS SERVED!
SHE'S PROBABLY IN THE DINING ROOM HOVERING OVER ONE OF HER SURPRISES!

OHHHHHHH!
WHAT IS IT, MY DEAR?


FOR A MOMENT I COULD HAVE SWORN IT WAS MARTHA HERSELF! THAT HEAD---IN THE CENTERPIECE!
BY JOVE! THAT IS UNIQUE! JUST SEE HOW LIFE-LIKE IT IS! COME AROUND THIS WAY, JUDGE!

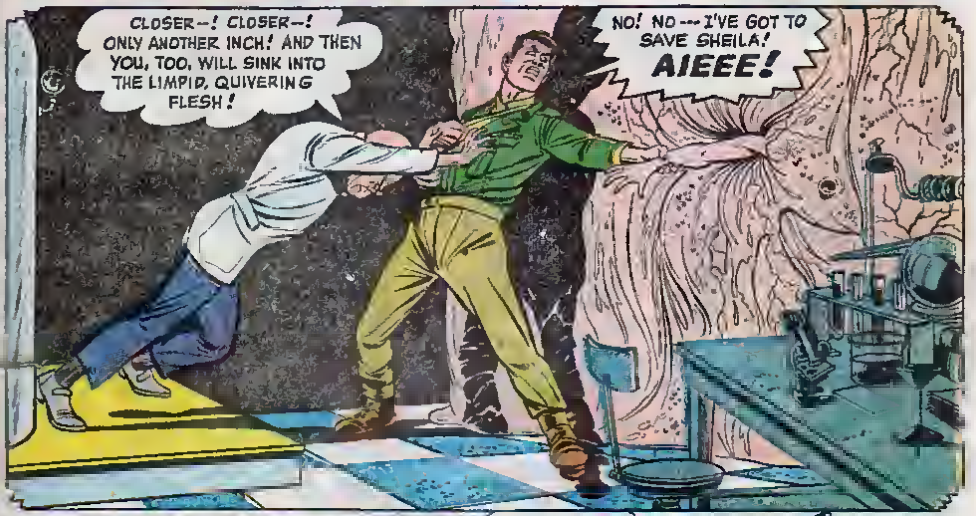
FASCINATED, THEY ENCIRCLED THE UNUSUAL PLATTER AND SUDDENLY, THEY STOOD ROOTED WITH HORROR, SCARCELY BELIEVING WHAT THEY SAW!
THE EYES---! THEY'RE MOVING!

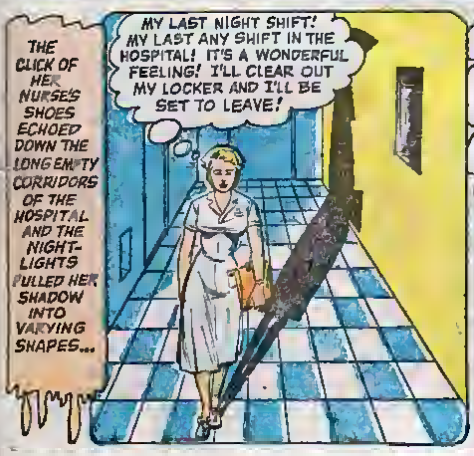

IT'S TRUE! HER---HER EYES ARE MOVING! THEY'RE FOLLOWING US WHEREVER WE GO!
IT--- IT'S MARTHA! SHE---SHE'S IMBEDDED IN THERE!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PLATTER MADE WITH YOUR OWN IMAGE IN IT, GUARANTEED TO GIVE A VERY LIFE-LIKE LOOK! JUST STOP IN AT THE LITTLE STORE DOWN BY THE CEMETERY!

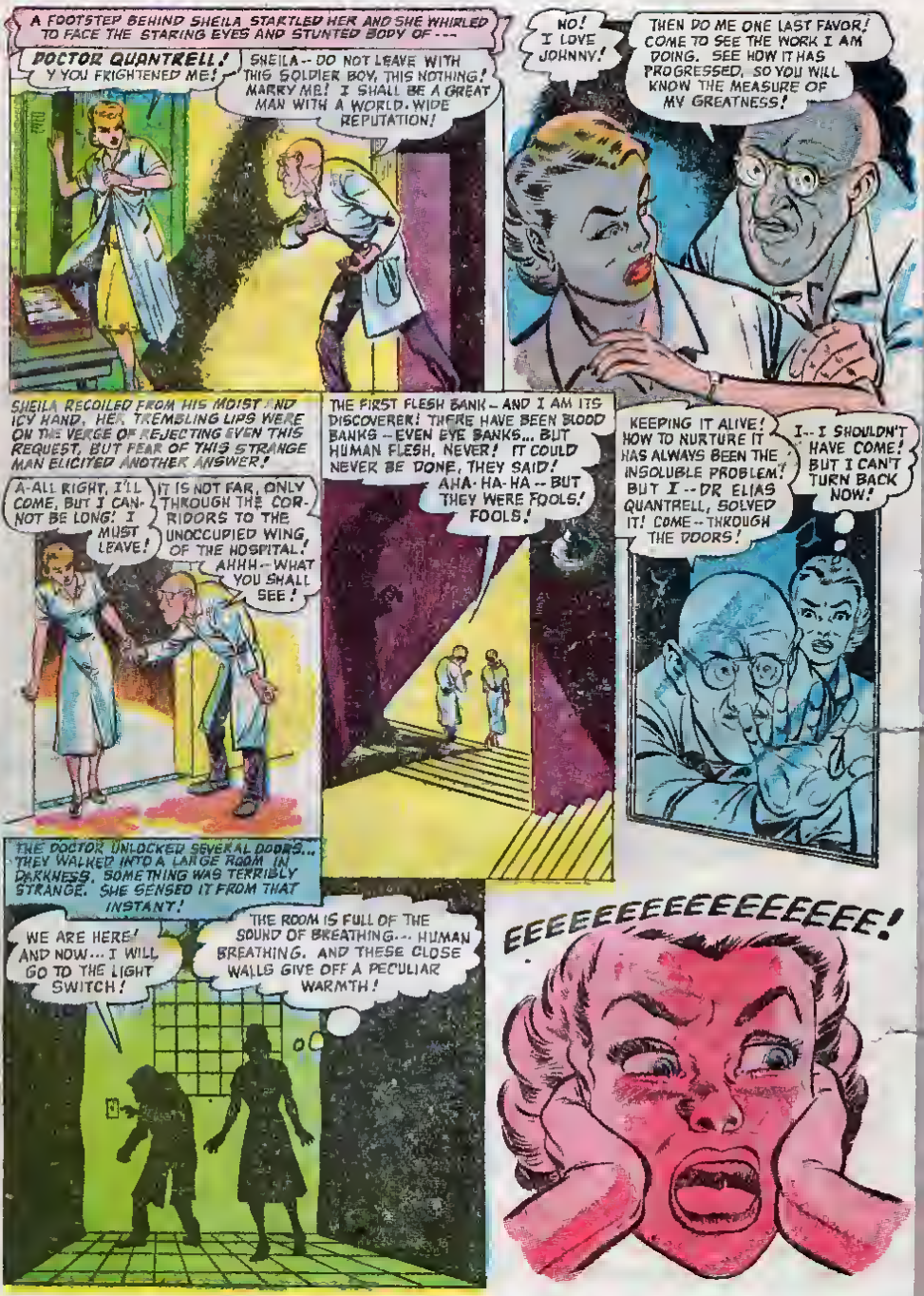
A BEAUTIFUL GIRL stumbles through the darkness! Her unwary hand touches a slim, warm, pulsating mass! Fear chokes her screams--ices her blood! She has come upon...

The WALL of FLESH!

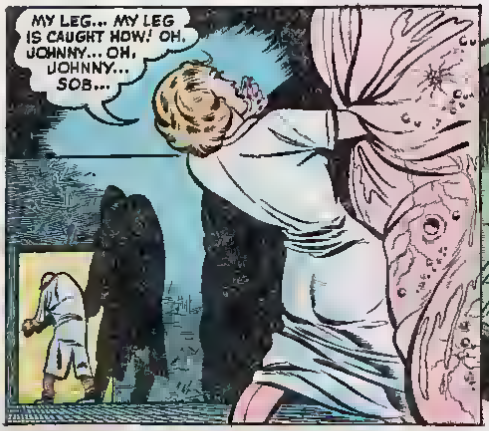

CLOSER--! CLOSER--! ONLY ANOTHER INCH! AND THEN YOU, TOO, WILL SINK INTO THE LIMPID, QUIVERING FLESH!
NO! NO--- I'VE GOT TO SAVE SHEILA! AIEEE!

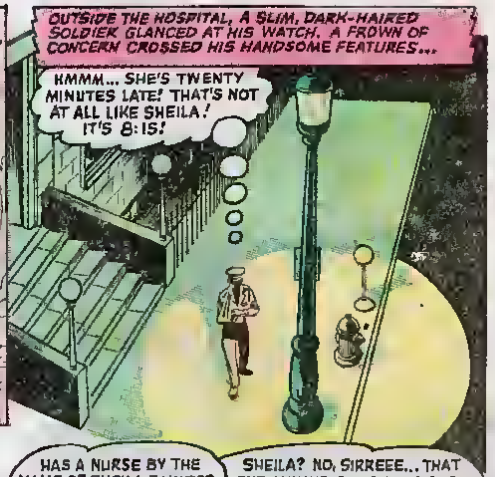

THE CLICK OF HER NURSE'S SHOES ECHOED DOWN THE LONG EMPTY CORRIDORS OF THE HOSPITAL AND THE NIGHT-LIGHTS PULLED HER SHADOW INTO VARYING SHAPES...
MY LAST NIGHT SHIFT! MY LAST ANY SHIFT IN THE HOSPITAL! IT'S A WONDERFUL FEELING! I'LL CLEAR OUT MY LOCKER AND I'LL BE SET TO LEAVE!

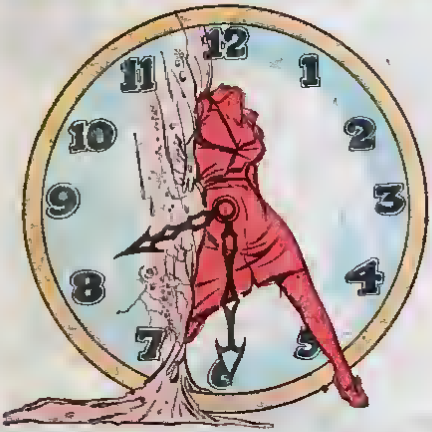
HOW LONG I'VE WAITED FOR THIS! NOW, AT LAST, JOHNNY'S COME FROM KOREA AND I CAN LEAVE THIS PLACE AND MARRY HIM! ONLY FIFTEEN MINUTES AND I MEET HIM OUT FRONT!

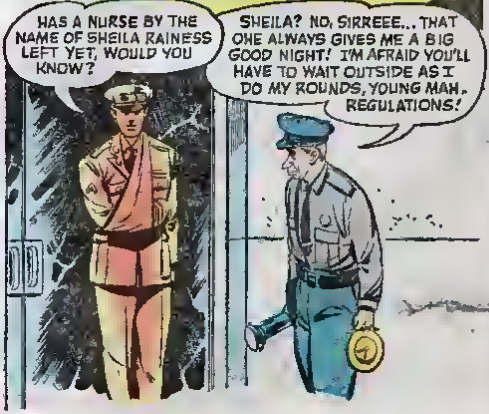

A FOOTSTEP BEHIND SHEILA STARTLED HER AND SHE WHIRLED TO FACE THE STARING EYES AND STUNTED BODY OF ---
DOCTOR QUANTRELL! Y YOU FRIGHTENED ME!
SHEILA -- DO NOT LEAVE WITH THIS SOLDIER BOY, THIS NOTHING! MARRY ME! I SHALL BE A GREAT MAN WITH A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION!
NO! I LOVE JOHNNY!
THEN DO ME ONE LAST FAVOR! COME TO SEE THE WORK I AM DOING. SEE HOW IT HAS PROGRESSED, SO YOU WILL KNOW THE MEASURE OF MY GREATNESS!
SHEILA RECOILED FROM HIS MOIST AND ICY HAND, HER TREMBLING LIPS WERE ON THE VERGE OF REJECTING EVEN THIS REQUEST, BUT FEAR OF THIS STRANGE MAN ELICITED ANOTHER ANSWER!
A-ALL RIGHT, I'LL COME, BUT I CANNOT BE LONG! I MUST LEAVE!
IT IS NOT FAR, ONLY THROUGH THE CORRIDORS TO THE UNOCCUPIED WING OF THE HOSPITAL.
AHHH -- WHAT YOU SHALL SEE!
THE FIRST FLESH BANK -- AND I AM ITS DISCOVERER! THERE HAVE BEEN BLOOD BANKS -- EVEN EYE BANKS... BUT HUMAN FLESH, NEVER! IT COULD NEVER BE DONE, THEY SAID! AHA-HA-HA -- BUT THEY WERE FOOLS! FOOLS!
KEEPING IT ALIVE! HOW TO NURTURE IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE INSOLUBLE PROBLEM! BUT I -- DR ELIAS QUANTRELL, SOLVED IT! COME -- THROUGH THE DOORS!
I-- I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME! BUT I CAN'T TURN BACK NOW!
THE DOCTOR UNLOCKED SEVERAL DOORS... THEY WALKED INTO A LARGE ROOM IN DARKNESS. SOMETHING WAS TERRIBLY STRANGE. SHE SENSED IT FROM THAT INSTANT!
WE ARE HERE! AND NOW... I WILL GO TO THE LIGHT SWITCH!
THE ROOM IS FULL OF THE SOUND OF BREATHING -- HUMAN BREATHING. AND THESE CLOSE WALLS GIVE OFF A PECULIAR WARMTH!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

YES--THEY ARE WALLS OF FLESH! A MASS OF QUIVERING, PULSING FLESH--PINKISH AND ALIVE! LOOK, SHEILA---LOOK! DO NOT TURN AWAY!
I---I FEEL FAINT! OHHHHH...
YOU HAVE TOUCHED THE FLESH--- AHAHAHAHA!
QUANTRELL LAUGHED LIKE A MANIAC. SHEILA TRIED TO WITHDRAW HER HAND -- BUT IT HELD!
I-I CAN'T GET AWAY! MY FINGERS SEEM TO MELT INTO THE WALL OF FLESH!
I'M SINKING FORWARD! MY WRIST IS BECOMING ABSORBED! HELP ME! HELP ME!
SHE STRUGGLED FRANTICALLY, CRYING HELPLESSLY ALOUD TO THE UNHEEDING DOCTOR! BUT THE FLESH HELD FAST LIKE THE SUCTION OF A QUAGMIRE!
IF I CANNOT HAVE YOU-- NO ONE ELSE WILL...!
PLEASE... PLEASE.. I BEG YOU!
THIS IS MY FLESH BANK! AND THIS IS HOW IT IS NURTURED--BY OTHER FLESH! YOU WILL BE ABSORBED---AND IN SEVERAL HOURS--- DIGESTED!
NO! NO! EEEEEEEE!

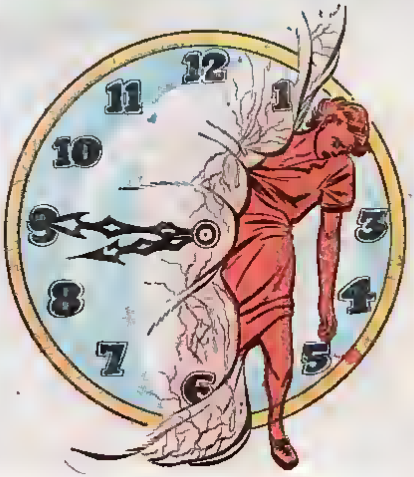

MY LEG... MY LEG IS CAUGHT HOW! OH, JOHNNY... OH, JOHNNY... SOB...

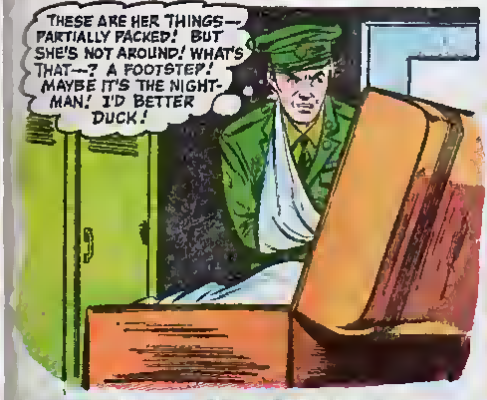

OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL, A SLIM, DARK-HAIRED SOLDIER GLANCED AT HIS WATCH. A FROWN OF CONCERN CROSSED HIS HANDSOME FEATURES...
HMMM... SHE'S TWENTY MINUTES LATE! THAT'S NOT AT ALL LIKE SHEILA! IT'S 8:15!

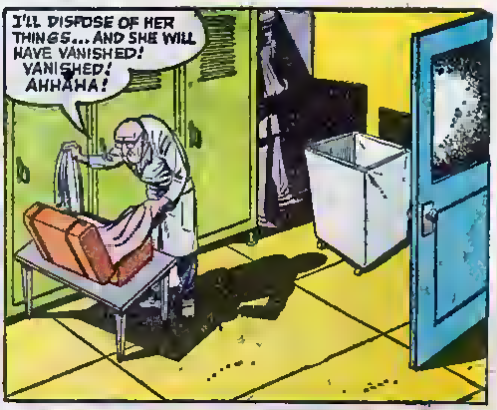



HAS A NURSE BY THE NAME OF SHEILA RAINESS LEFT YET, WOULD YOU KNOW?
SHEILA? NO, SIRREEE... THAT ONE ALWAYS GIVES ME A BIG GOOD NIGHT! I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT OUTSIDE AS I DO MY ROUNDS, YOUNG MAH. REGULATIONS!

SOMETHING MIGHT BE WRONG! I'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK! NO HARM IF I SLIP INTO THE LOCKER-ROOM TO CHECK ON HER! NOW'S MY CHANCE!




THESE ARE HER THINGS—PARTIALLY PACKED! BUT SHE'S NOT AROUND! WHAT'S THAT—? A FOOTSTEP! MAYBE IT'S THE NIGHT-MAN! I'D BETTER DUCK!


I'LL DISPOSE OF HER THINGS... AND SHE WILL HAVE VANISHED! VANISHED! AHHAHA!

VANISHED? SOMETHING IS COCKEYED! I'D BETTER FOLLOW THIS CHARACTER!

I—I COULD JUMP HIM... BUT I'VE GOT TO BE SURE OF WHAT'S GOING ON. AND THIS ARM OF MINE! WHAT A TIME TO HAVE A WAR WOUND!

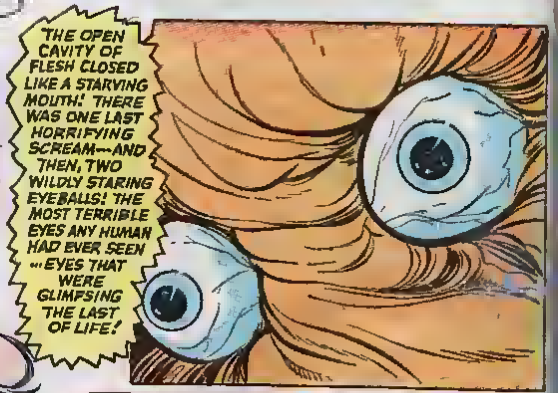
THROUGH THE LAST DOOR — AND THEN, THE SIGHT OF THE FLESH, SHEILA'S TORTURE WRACKED FACE EVEN NOW SINKING OUT OF SIGHT!
SHEILA — MY GOD!
JOHNNY — JOHNNY — SAVE — AIEEEEE!
THE SOLDIER!
QUANTRELL FLUNG HIMSELF BEFORE JOHNNY! THEY STRUGGLED, THE STEELY-SINEWED LITTLE DOCTOR FORCED HIM BACK... BACK, TRYING TO FORCE HIM INTO THE LUMP OF PULLING FLESH!
YOU CANNOT HAVE HER! YOU CANNOT!
WHY, YOU CRAZY —!
NO, JOHNNY — DON'T TOUCH THE FLESH OR YOU ARE LOST! JOHNNY!
BACK — BACK... ANOTHER INCH! BACH!
I — I CAN'T LOSE HER! WE'VE WAITED SO LONG... SO LONG...

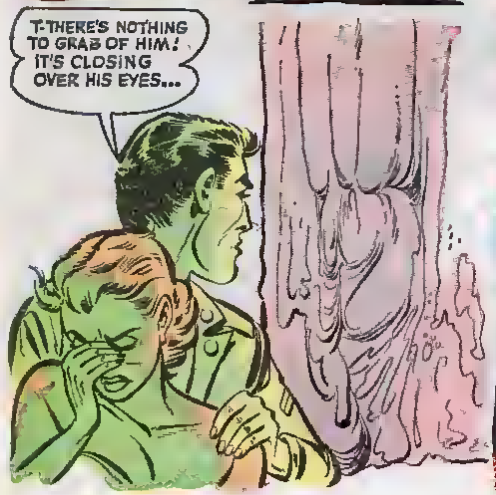
WITH A LAST DESPERATE SURGE OF STRENGTH, JOHNNY TORE OUT OF THE DOCTOR'S GRASP ONLY SHEILA'S ARM PROTRUDED HER FOREARM ... HER WRIST! AND THEN ---
THIS PLASTER CAST OUGHT TO --!
UNHHHH!
WUNK
SHEILA! I -- I'LL GET YOU OUT! LORD -- ONLY THE FINGERS ARE STILL SHOWING! AM I TOO LATE! WILL SHE BE ALREADY DIGESTED BY THE FLESH?
JOHNNY GRABBED THE SLIPPING FINGERS ... PULLED, STRAINED WITH EVERY BURNING MUSCLE FIBER ...
GOT -- TO -- GET HER OUT! GOT TO!
SHE'S COMING! SHE'S COMING! OH, SHEILA -- SHEILA!
HIS HEAD DIZZIED. HE WAS CLOSE TO FAINTNESS. HIS STRENGTH WAS GONE! IT WAS NOW -- OR NEVER! ONE LAST SUPERHUMAN PULL AND ---
I THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU!
MY DARLING! MY DARLING!

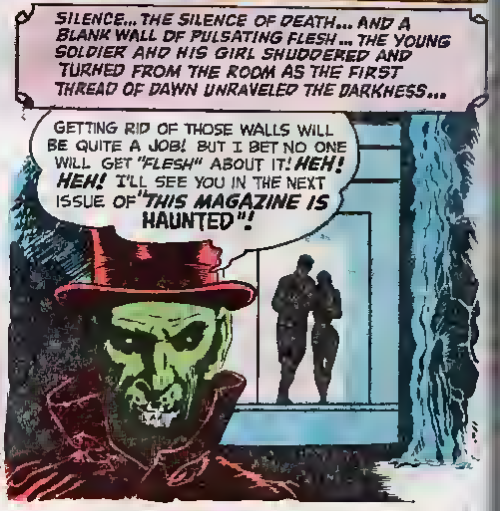
BEHIND THE EMBRACING PAIR, A DAZED AND FUMBLING FIGURE HAD RISEN UNNOTICED. A HAND GRASPED A GLEAMING OBJECT, AND THEN ---
JOHNNY! H-HE'S GOT HIS HANDS ON A SCALPEL! LOOK OUT!

I'LL CUT YOU TO PIECES! I --- UHHH!

GAHHHHHH!

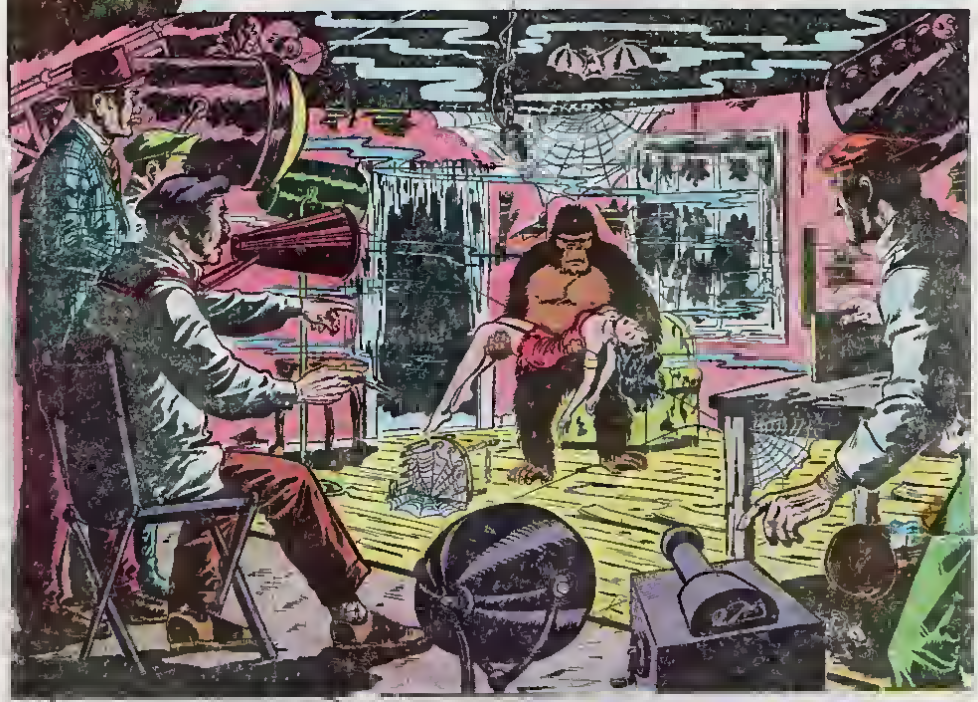

THE OPEN CAVITY OF FLESH CLOSED LIKE A STARVING MOUTH! THERE WAS ONE LAST HORRIFYING SCREAM--- AND THEN, TWO WILDLY STARING EYEBALLS! THE MOST TERRIBLE EYES ANY HUMAN HAD EVER SEEN ...EYES THAT WERE GLIMPSING THE LAST OF LIFE!


T-THERE'S NOTHING TO GRAB OF HIM! IT'S CLOSING OVER HIS EYES...


SILENCE... THE SILENCE OF DEATH... AND A BLANK WALL OF PULSATING FLESH ... THE YOUNG SOLDIER AND HIS GIRL SHUDDERED AND TURNED FROM THE ROOM AS THE FIRST THREAD OF DAWN UNRAVELED THE DARKNESS...
GETTING RID OF THOSE WALLS WILL BE QUITE A JOB! BUT I BET NO ONE WILL GET "FLESH" ABOUT IT! HEH! HEH! I'LL SEE YOU IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF "THIS MAGAZINE IS HAUNTED"!

READY--ACTION--CAMERA!

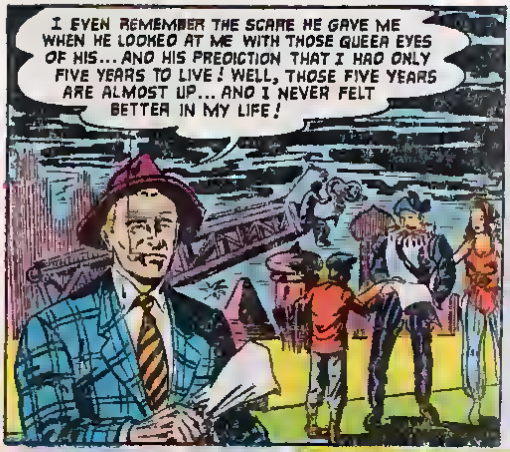
HOLLYWOOD IS THE LAND OF MAKE-BELIEVE WHERE ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN... AND SOMETIMES DOES! THE WEIRD AND UNBELIEVABLE BECOMES STARK REALITY WHEN THE MOVIE SET RECEIVES STRANGE AND UNEXPECTED VISITORS... THE MEN FROM MARS!



SWIFTY FOX IS MY NAME! THE SLICKEST PUBLICITY MAN IN ALL HOLLYWOOD! I THOUGHT I HAD SEEN EVERYTHING... UNTIL... WELL, I'D BETTER START AT THE BEGINNING!

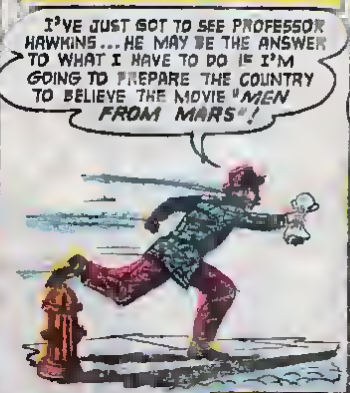
"IT ALL STARTED WHEN I WAS CALLED INTO THE OFFICE OF SWAD TAGGART, HEAD OF ACME PRODUCTIONS...

I SAW THE SNEAK PREVIEW OF ACME'S LATEST PICTURE, "MEN FROM MARS!" IT'S SO PREPOSTEROUS! NOBODY WILL BELIEVE IT... AND IT'S COST US OVER A MILLION DOLLARS TO PRODUCE!
JUST WHERE DO I FIT IN? PUBLICITY'S MY BUSINESS... NOT MOVIE-MAKING!
THAT'S JUST IT! IT'S UP TO YOU TO PUBLICIZE THE PICTURE IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE AUDIENCE WILL BE PREPARED TO BELIEVE IT WHEN IT DOES COME OUT!
THAT'S A BIG JOB, MR. TAGGART... BUT NO JOB IS TOO BIG FOR SWIFTY FOX!
MAKE OUT A CHECK TO YOURS TRULY FOR ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND I'LL HAVE THE AUDIENCE EATING RIGHT OUT OF YOUR HAND!
A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS... GULP!
THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY... BUT IT'S STILL A BARGAIN IF I SAVE A MILLION! HERE IT IS!
HOLLYWOOD BANK of CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. November 13,
$100000
TO THE ORDER OF Swifty Fox
One Hundr
"I WALKED OUT IN A DAZE! I HAD NO IDEA OF HOW OR WHERE TO BEGIN...
I MUST'VE BEEN CRAZY! HOW AM I GOING TO PREPARE PEOPLE TO BELIEVE IN MEN FROM MARS? I NEVER SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN INVOLVED IN THIS!
ACME PRODUCTIONS
WHAT'S NEW IN THE PAPERS, TOMMY?
NOTHING REALLY, SWIFTY! JUST SOME STORY ABOUT A PROFESSOR WHO CLAIMS HE CAN COMMUNICATE WITH MARS!
PROFESSOR HAWKINS, MY EYE! I RECOGNIZE THAT FAKER! THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM HE WAS A FORTUNE TELLER AT THE COUNTY FAIR!
DAILY CINEMA
PROFESSOR HAWKINS CLAIMS HE CAN TALK TO MARS


I EVEN REMEMBER THE SCARE HE GAVE ME WHEN HE LOOKED AT ME WITH THOSE QUEER EYES OF HIS... AND HIS PREDICTION THAT I HAD ONLY FIVE YEARS TO LIVE! WELL, THOSE FIVE YEARS ARE ALMOST UP... AND I NEVER FELT BETTER IN MY LIFE!

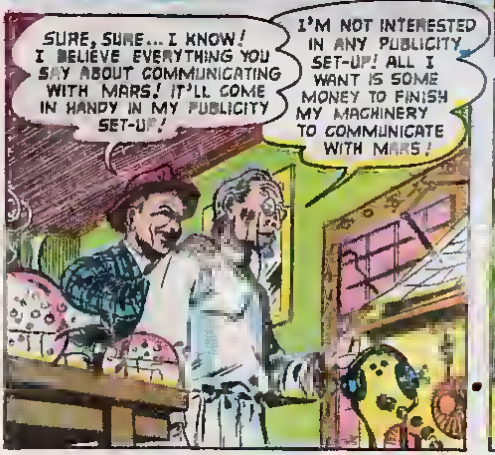
AND NOW THE OLD FAKER CLAIMS HE CAN COMMUNICATE WITH MARS! I WONDER WHAT SCHEME HE'LL BE UP TO NEXT!
ACME PRODUCTIONS
SHOW PASSES HERE

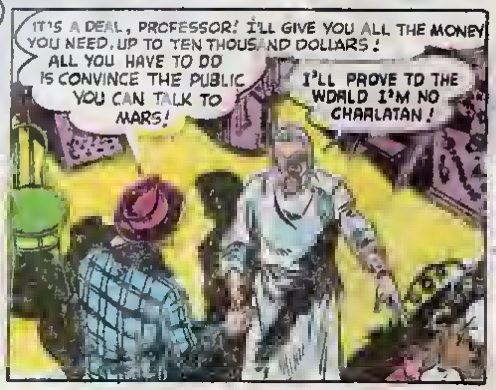
AN IDEA WAS RAPIDLY FORMULATING...


I'VE JUST GOT TO SEE PROFESSOR HAWKINS... HE MAY BE THE ANSWER TO WHAT I HAVE TO DO IF I'M GOING TO PREPARE THE COUNTRY TO BELIEVE THE MOVIE "MEN FROM MARS"!

"THE NEWSPAPER HAD GIVEN THE ADDRESS OF HIS LABORATORY! IT WASN'T HARD FINDING...

HI'YA, PROFESSOR... YOU OLD FAKER! YOU DON'T KNOW IT, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO WORK FOR SWIFTY FOX!
MY CHARLATAN DAYS ARE OVER! WHAT YOU READ ABOUT ME IN THE NEWSPAPERS IS TRUE!


SURE, SURE... I KNOW! I BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU SAY ABOUT COMMUNICATING WITH MARS! IT'LL COME IN HANDY IN MY PUBLICITY SET-UP!
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ANY PUBLICITY SET-UP! ALL I WANT IS SOME MONEY TO FINISH MY MACHINERY TO COMMUNICATE WITH MARS!


IT'S A DEAL, PROFESSOR! I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE MONEY YOU NEED, UP TO TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CONVINCE THE PUBLIC YOU CAN TALK TO MARS!
I'LL PROVE TO THE WORLD I'M NO CHARLATAN!

I WALKED OUT OF HIS LABORATORY WITH A QUEER FEELING! THOSE EYES OF HIS SENT A WEIRD CHILL UP MY SPINE!
I DON'T KNOW... I JUST CAN'T STOP SWEATING... THAT GUY JUST DIDN'T LOOK NORMAL TO ME!
IT MUST BE MY IMAGINATION! ONCE I GET MY SCHEME ROLLING I'LL PROBABLY FEEL BETTER! THE FIRST THING I'VE GOT TO DO IS HIRE A FEW BROKEN-DOWN-ACTORS TO PLAY SOME ROLES!
FINDING SOME BROKEN-DOWN HAMS WASN'T HARD IN HOLLYWOOD...
... AND I'LL HIRE THE HELICOPTER RESEMBLING THE FLYING SAUCER! ALL YOU THREE WILL HAVE TO DO IS LAND IT ON THE SET!
THESE WILL THE EASIEST ROLES WE EVER PLAYED, SWIFTY!
DRUGS
THE NEXT STEP WAS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE LOCAL REPORTERS...
HELLO, KELLY OF THE PRESS! I'VE GOT A HOT NEWSBEAT FOR YOU! JUST SHOW UP AT ACME PRODUCTIONS ON THE 25th OF THIS MONTH AND YOU'LL SEE IT FOR YOURSELF!
I'D GO CLEAR ACROSS THE COUNTRY FOR A HOT NEWSBEAT! I'LL BE THERE!
FOX
THAT COVERS ALL THE PAPERS AND NEWS AGENCIES! NOW TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE CAMERAMAN TO FILM THE WHOLE THING! ONCE THIS APPEARS IN THE PAPERS THE PEOPLE WILL BE READY TO BELIEVE ANYTHING IN THE MOVIE, MEN FROM MARS!
THE DAYS ROLLED BY... PROFESSOR HAWKINS WENT AHEAD WITH HIS COMMUNICATION BOARD...
THERE... ALL FINISHED! NOW TO SEND THE WORLD'S FIRST MESSAGE DIRECTLY TO MARS!
THE CRACKPOT ALMOST HAS ME BELIEVING HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT THIS WHOLE THING!
DON'T FORGET TO TELL THEM TO SEND US A FEW VISITORS! IT'LL TIE IN WITH MY PUBLICITY THAT REAL MEN FROM MARS ARE OBJECTING TO THIS PICTURE BEING MADE ABOUT THEM!
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR MOVIE, MR. FOX! BUT I'LL PROVE TO THE WORLD THAT I CAN COMMUNICATE WITH MARS!

CALLING MARS... CALLING MARS! PROFESSOR HAWKINS ON EARTH TALKING... PROFESSOR HAWKINS ON EARTH TALKING!
"IT WAS A PREPOSTEROUS SIGHT TO WATCH... BUT SOMEHOW THE WAY HE LOOKED FRIGHTENED ME!
PROFESSOR HAWKINS CALLING MARS... HELLO MARS! THE EARTHMEN ARE MAKING A MOVIE THAT WILL RIDICULE YOU! DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
"THE MESSAGE FINALLY SENT, I HEADED FOR THE SET... BUT MY FEET DRAGGED SLOWLY, AS IF WEIGHTED DOWN BY THE PREMONITION OF THE UNKNOWN...
HI'YA SWIFTY! WHERE'S THAT NEWSBEAT YOU PROMISED US?
IF YOU CALLED US HERE JUST TO WATCH THIS MOVIE THEY'RE MAKING YOU'LL NEVER GET A LINE IN OUR PAPER AGAIN!
"SOMEHOW I WAS GETTING TIRED OF THE WHOLE PUBLICITY SCHEME... BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THE REASON WHY...
GEE, FELLERS, IT'S ALL A MISTAKE! I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!
"I WAS HOPING THAT THE WHOLE MESS COULD END QUICKLY... BUT I WAS HOPING IN VAIN...
HUH... WHAT'S THAT? IT LOOKS JUST LIKE A FLYING SAUCER!
IT'S TOO LATE TO EXPLAIN NOW! I'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH WITH IT! HERE COMES THE HELICOPTER I HIRED!
IT'S PROBABLY A PURE PUBLICITY STUNT! THEY FIGURED THE PICTURE WAS A TURKEY AND THEY DRAGGED US OUT HERE TO GET SOME FREE PUBLICITY!
THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW THERE'LL BE SOME STRANGE MEN COMING OUT OF THAT SAUCER!
"IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT I RECEIVED MY FIRST SHOCK... I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE MY EYES...
HEY, SWIFTY... WE GOTTA TALK TO YOU!
(GULP!) IT'S THOSE THREE ACTORS I HIRED!

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! THE FLYING SAUCER... I MEAN HELICOPTER...IS COMING DOWN BUT HOW IF THEY'RE NOT IN IT?
WHAT GIVES HERE?
OUR HELICOPTER IS STILL IN THE HANGAR. WE COULDN'T GET IT OFF THE GROUND!
GULP... THEN WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
NO... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... COULD HAWKIN'S MESSAGE REALLY HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH?
DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS CARRING A JOKE FAR ENOUGH?
WHAT JOKE... GULP!
I'LL UNMASK THEM AND SHOW UP THE WHOLE THING AS A PUBLICITY STUNT!
KELLY... DON'T!
REELS

"MY LIPS FORMED THE WORDS OF CAUTION BUT NO SOUND ISSUED FORTH... MY THROAT WAS CONSTRICTED BY THE ICY FINGERS OF FEAR!
I'LL SHOW... GULP... GURGH!
RAT-TAT-TAT
SWIFTY... DO SOMETHING... THEY'RE TURNING THOSE INFERNAL GUNS ON US!
BUT THIS IS SOMETHING I NEVER....
"MY WORDS WERE LOST IN THE CLATTER OF THE RAY GUNS! I SAW IT WITH MY EYES BUT MY OTHER SENSES DIDN'T BELIEVE IT... THEY WERE DULLED BEYOND UNDERSTANDING...
WHO ARE THEY? WHERE DID THEY COME... UGH!
IT'S THAT CRAZY PROFESSOR HAWKINS.... I NEVER SHOULD HAVE GONE TO HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
RAT-TAT-TAT
RAT-TAT-TAT
"CRAZED WITH FEAR, I THOUGHT WITH MY FEET... FINALLY, I FOUND SANCTUARY!
THERE WON'T BE A SINGLE PERSON LEFT ALIVE HERE!
RAT-TAT TAT
THEY'RE OUT TO DESTROY EVERYTHING BEFORE THEY LEAVE!

I THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD PUBLICITY TO SAY THAT THE MEN FROM MARS OBJECTED TO THE PICTURE... BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN TRUE!
THEIR DESTRUCTION IS OVER! THERE THEY GO!
MAYBE NOTHING TURNED OUT THE WAY I PLANNED... BUT AT LEAST I STILL HAVE THIS CHECK FOR A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS!
I LEARNED MY LESSON THOUGH... NEVER DOUBT ANYONE WHO MESSES AROUND WITH THE SUPER-NATURAL! NOT EVEN SOME ONE LIKE PROFESSOR HAWKINS --- (GULP) WHAT AM I SAYING?
I REMEMBER HIS WORDS AS THOUGH IT WERE YESTERDAY... AND IT'S ALMOST FIVE YEARS TO THE DAY!
YOU HAVE FIVE YEARS TO LIVE, SWIFTY FOX... FIVE YEARS TO LIVE!
AND BEFORE THE DAY WAS OVER SWIFTY FOX WAS DEAD --- THE OFFICIAL REPORT SAID HEART FAILURE! OH MY! OH MY! MOVIES ARE BETTER THAN EVER --- AREN'T THEY? HEH! HEH!